



The Bulletin

Newsletter of the Greater Western Sydney Region

Issue 415 - November 2013



FUN DAY ON THE WATER

Sunday 1st December 2013

ANGLE PARK

LAKE CHIPPING NORTON

9.00am till 3.00pm



Only \$5.00 per person or
\$20.00 for a family

Kids under 5 years - Free with paying parents.

Grandparents are free with paying kids.

Don't forget your Hat, Scout Scarf, Sunscreen, Water Bottle
Towel, Swimmers and River Shoes.

(River Shoes must be worn while in the water or boats)

PFD's will be supplied to all participants while using watercraft.

There will be a food stall selling drinks and hot food.

There are limited BBQ facilities available.

You will need to register using the A1 Form available from
www.greaterwestscouts.com.au and forward with your payment to
the Region Office by **Friday 22 November 2013**

Further information is on the A1 Form.

Unfortunately we are unable to accept registrations on the day.

GREATER WESTERN SYDNEY REGION OFFICE

6 Baden Powell Place, Winston Hills 2153

BUSINESS HOURS: TUESDAY to THURSDAY 9AM TO 3.30PM, FRIDAY 10AM TO 4.30PM

Phone: 9639 2488 **Fax:** 9686 2510 **Email:** gws.region@nsw.scouts.com.au

Website: www.greaterwestscouts.com.au

FROM THE REGION COMMISSIONER

It is with some sadness that I have to report the passing of one of the best known activity leaders in Greater Western Sydney Region. Rick Jamieson was called home on 24th October 2013 after a long illness. I was proud to be part of a large representation from GWS who attended his memorial service and must comment on the excellent eulogy on Rick's Scouting life delivered by Mark Fell. Rest in Peace Rick.

I have just returned home from a meeting of the Chief Commissioner's Council and would advise that the fee for the next 12 months commencing 1st April 2014 will be \$36.00 per quarter (or \$8.00 per year increase). Also the joining fee has been increased to \$30.00 effective the same date.

The Adult Awards Dinner was well attended with 206 people in attendance at the Toongabbie Sporting and Bowling Club. We could have had another 30 people attend but the room was not large enough, perhaps we will need to look at a bigger venue for next year. Thanks to all who attended, it was a very special night.

It is now time to think about the Adult Recognition Awards for 2014. Awards are presented for especially good service to the Association and are made to persons who have given particularly valuable service or significantly contributed to the wellbeing of Scouting. Anyone can nominate a leader or layside person who have met the criteria set out by Scouts Australia. The 2014 nominations are due at Region Office by 27th January 2014. Please email the nominations to the office at gws.region@nsw.scouts.com.au or to me rc@greaterwestscouts.com.au

Over the past few weeks I have visited the Cuboree shakedown camps at Bundilla and it was great to meet and talk to the leaders who are doing such a great job to prepare the cubs for their upcoming adventure. Well done leaders. I am looking forward to attending the Cuboree Opening Ceremony and seeing our cubs in action.

An early advice to Group Leaders, Leaders in Charge and District Commissioners. You will shortly receive an invitation to a Development Workshop on **Sunday 2nd February 2014 at Bundilla** where we will discuss ways to grow scouting in GWS and in particular your group. Attendance at the workshop is compulsory as we will be having some guests who will tell us the methods they used to increase their numbers and make the groups in the region viable.

I have received a letter of resignation from Belinda Francis (Region Leader Scouts) which I have accepted with regret. Unfortunately Belinda has made the decision, as she has been promoted at work and can't fully commit to work, family and scouts. We wish Bel

all the best for the future and remind her that there will always be a position at GWS when she wishes to return.

There are new rules for sleeping in halls and I will be emailing Group Leaders and Leaders in Charge the details shortly.

Until next time...carry on Scouting

Neville Henderson - Region Commissioner

Email: rc@greaterwestscouts.com.au

Please Note:

THE REGION OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED

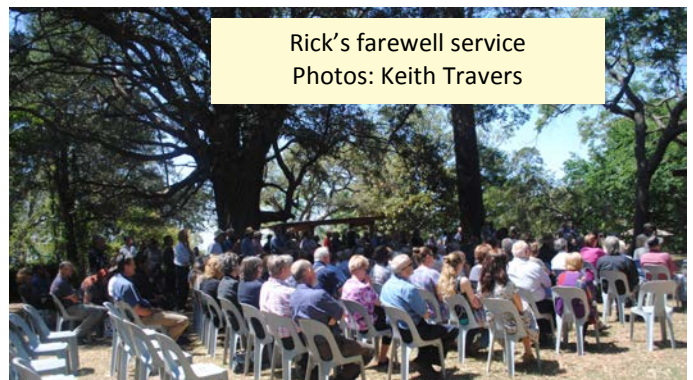
from

Monday December 23, 2013

to

Monday January 27, 2014

inclusive.





DR RICHARD ANTHONY JAMIESON

1941 - 2013

Dr Richard Anthony Jamieson, more affectionately known as Rick, started his Scouting journey in 1960 as an Assistant Scout Leader with 2nd Berala, before moving into the role as Scout Leader, the same year. In 1966, and still with 2nd Berala, Rick moved up to Venturers, as the Assistant Senior Scout Leader. The following year he moved across to the then Strathfield District, as the District Senior Scout Leader.

Rick stepped down from Scouting for a number of years before the call of the scarf brought him back, and he joined up with 1st Kurrajong Scouts as the Venturer Scout Leader in 1989. After spending three years with Kurrajong, he then transferred to 1st Kings Langley Venturer Unit in 1992, where he served for a further four years.

However Rick's real passion was for the more adventurous type activities - canyoning, caving and abseiling, which saw him then transfer to Greater Western Sydney Region in 1996 as a Regional Leader for Activities. In this role Rick headed up the GWS Region Rock Team, virtually right up until his passing.

It was during this time, when so many of us here today, experienced the real Rick Jamieson we came to know and love.

With that old faded bucket hat, a caving helmet, and his well-worn Dunlop Volleys, Rick was equally at home teaching young scouts the very basics of abseiling, to himself leading trips to explore some of the most difficult and remote canyons in the mountains. In fact anyone, including myself, who has done abseiling within Greater Western Sydney Region in the last 15 odd years, would have done so under the caring and guiding hand of Rick Jamieson.

Rick's skills were not just with ropes. He was also a keen poet and a folk singer, and collaborated in producing the Senior Scout Songbook.

Rick's service to Scouting was recognised in 2004 when he was awarded the Silver Wattle for Outstanding Service.

Rick will be sadly missed by GWS Region and indeed the wider Scout family. His absence at meetings was often prefaced with the comment "last seen down a canyon at....."! He was very much the doer rather than the talker.

Today, as we share our sorrow with family and friends of the late Rick Jamieson, we are, however, much the richer, in the knowledge that we have known and learnt from such a selfless and talented individual.

There is just one word, which all who knew Rick can relate to.... MIGHTY! Mighty in life, and mighty in his legacy.

REST IN PEACE

APPOINTMENTS LIST

08/10/2013— 28/10/13



APPOINTMENTS

TANTISALIDCHAI , Kanlaya	Appt TL (J)	1st Ermington Joey Mob
KUBIAK , Jennifer	Appt TL (S)	1st Hazelbrook Scout Troop
PLUMMER , Leonie	DJSL	Parramatta District
RIGBY , Robert John	Appt TL (S)	1st South Penrith Scout Troop <i>Gundooi</i>
APTHORPE , Linda	Fellowship Member	Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship
APTHORPE , Michael	Fellowship Member	Pinnaroo Scout Fellowship
WICKS , John	Appt TL (V)	1st Glossodia Venturer Unit
MCHUGH , Sarah	Appt TL (V)	1st/2nd Merrylands (St Anne's) Venturer Unit

TRANSFERS

JONES , Phillip Frederick	From Appt TL (C) To ACSL	1st Glossodia Cub Pack 1st Glossodia Cub Pack
LUTZ , Ian Barry	From CSL To ACSL	1st Kellyville Cub Pack <i>Zazu</i> 1st Kellyville Cub Pack <i>Zazu</i>
MCLELLAN , John David	From Appt TL (S) To ASL	1st Hazelbrook Scout Troop 1st Hazelbrook Scout Troop
SIEDENTOPF , Charles	From ACSL To CSL	1st Kellyville Cub Pack <i>Zazu</i> 1st Kellyville Cub Pack <i>Zazu</i>
WEEKES , Micheal	From Appt TL (J) To JSL	1st Balcombe Heights Joey Mob 1st Balcombe Heights Joey Mob
GRAHAM , Brett	From DSL To District Adviser	Penrith City District Penrith City District
HAYES , Elizabeth	From ASL To	1st North Rocks Scout Troop DCSL Parramatta District
CALAFATE , Anthony	From Appt TL (C) To ACSL	1st Kellyville Cub Pack <i>Darzee</i> 1st Kellyville Cub Pack <i>Darzee</i>
DI SALVIA , Lesley	From Appt TL (C) To ACSL	1st Greystanes Cub Pack 1st Greystanes Cub Pack
HENRY , Anthony	From AL (G) To ASL	1st Emu Plains Scout Group 1st Emu Plains Scout Troop <i>Barindji</i>
PRINGLE , Rodney	From ASL To CSL	1st Cambridge Park Scout Troop 1st Cambridge Park Cub Pack "Koala"

RESIGNATIONS

ANDERSON , Jennie	Appt TL (S)	1st Balcombe Heights Scout Troop
PILLAI , Krishnakumar	AGL	1st Carlingford Scout Group
BOLLARD , Gavin	CSL	1st Balcombe Heights Cub Pack
BOLLARD , Joanne	AJSL	1st Balcombe Heights Joey Mob
BOSNICH , Vanessa	ACSL	1st Balcombe Heights Cub Pack

CALLED TO HIGHER SERVICE

JAMIESON , Richard Anthony	RL (Act)	Greater Western Sydney Region 24/10/2013
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Annual Fire Safety Statement and Deadline for Fire Safety Statements

WHAT IS A FIRE SAFETY STATEMENT?

An annual Fire Safety Statement is a statement issued by or on behalf of the owner of a building that:

- Each Essential Fire Safety Measure specified has been assessed by a properly qualified person and performs to the original standards: and
- The building has been inspected by a properly qualified person and all fire safety notices (applicable to fire) are displayed, all fire doors relating to exits, and paths of travel to fire exits, are not obstructed or impeded.

ISSUE OF ANNUAL FIRE SAFETY STATEMENTS

- The choice of the qualified person to carry out an assessment or inspection is up to the Group.
- The person who carries out an Assessment must inspect and verify the performance of each essential fire safety measure being assessed.
- Each year the group is to ensure that a new Annual Fire Safety statement is obtained within 12 months from the date the previous Fire Safety Statement was obtained.
- The Group is to prominently display the Annual Fire Safety Statement in the Scout Hall. Two copies must be forwarded to the Region Office.

THE REGULATION

- A number of items are classified under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000 as Fire Safety Measures e.g. Smoke Detectors, Emergency Lights and Signs, Fire Exits and Doors, Fire Extinguishers and Fire Hoses.

THE DEADLINE

- **The Chief Commissioner Doug Menzies has set the deadline for the Fire Safety Statement to be in at the Region Office by 31st December 2013. The date is final and any Group or hall that does not comply will not open their doors next year.**
- **What does this mean to groups? If you have a permanent hire they will not be able to use your hall. More important your Scout Group will not be able to meet until this Statement has been received.**

PROCEDURE AND OPTIONS

- Your group must obtain a Fire Safety Statement.
- The Region has obtained a quote from 5 Star Fire safety for inspection and certificate for Bundilla.
- Contact your own contractor.
- The important thing is get it done.
- If you sit back and wait and do nothing and do not obtain this document you will be **CLOSED**.

Details of our contractor:



PO Box 345

Toongabbie NSW 2146 Email: peter.5star@yahoo.com.au Phone: 9609 7420 Mobile 0413 283 150

CUB SCOUT NOTES

The big focus for now is on Cuboree which is drawing ever closer. Two pre-Cuboree camps have been held at Bundilla with just one more to go. They have certainly proved to be a good training ground for the inexperienced and a little taste of what camping at Cuboree will be like. It also gave the Pack Coordinators and Leaders a chance to get to know one another and exchange ideas. The majority of the Cubs have been enthusiastic and cooperative and are really looking forward to the event.

My sincere thanks to Mark Fell and David Stopps for visiting the campsites and making their recommendations for improved safety standards. Thank you also to our busy Region Commissioner; Neville Henderson, who always takes the time to visit any event at Bundilla to have a chat with the Leaders and thank them for their hard work.

All the base workers for the GWS activity base have been allocated and there will be a meeting in the Rotary Hut on Saturday November 23 from 9am. It would be good to have as many of our workers there as possible, so that we can run through all the activities we will be doing at Cuboree.

Thank you to all the Scouts and Venturers who have volunteered to help out at Cuboree. Unfortunately I couldn't use everyone on our base, but believe me your help will be invaluable on the many other bases being organised for the Cub Scouts. Of course you will still get to socialise with your friends in the evenings and during your allocated time off and you will all be camped on the same Sub Camp.

We will be setting up the GWS activity base on Saturday January 4 from 8am. If any one would like to help us, Rovers in particular, you would be more than welcome. We have a gateway, marquee, numerous tents and gazebos to erect and we also need to create a swamp! So the more hands the better. Please contact me if you can help us out on the day, thank you?

There is a lot of misinformation being circulated about Cuboree, so after consulting with the Region Webmaster, he has created a special Cuboree page, where all the latest news can be published and any one can ask a question about something they are unsure of. I do hope that this will be useful for all Leaders and Parents involved with Cuboree. Just let Matt Thompson or I know if you would like to see something in particular posted on the page. Please follow this link to the Cuboree web page: <http://www.greaterwestscouts.com.au/cubs/cuboree>

Anne Thompson - RC Cub Scouts

Email: cubs@greaterwestscouts.com.au

TRAINING REPORT

Training for 2013 will finish at the end of this month with an Advanced Skills course for Scout and Venturer Leaders – if it attracts enough participants.

That means we are now looking forward to the 2014 courses. There will not be as many as in previous years - so please note the dates in your diaries.

For those training to be a Joey Scout Leader, a Cub Scout Leader or a Leader of Adults - the first course is on 8th and 9th March at Pennant Hills. The next course will be held at Glenrock in June.

For Scout Leaders and Venturer Scout Leaders the first course is on the 15th and 16th March at Glenrock. The following course will be held at Pennant Hills in July.

All Leaders wishing to do an Advanced (Wood Badge) course will need to book into Pennant Hills for the 5th and 6th April. All sections will run courses on that date.

All this information is now on the NSW website under Leader training. The training calendar also includes the application date-one month before the course. Please note that course fees will increase from 1st April 2014.

For any new Leader interviews, required before February 2014 - please contact Kathy Cuneo.

Thank you to all the Training Team, including the PLAs for their hard work this year. It has been, and will continue to be, a time of change in training and it is pleasing that everyone is adaptable to the change.

Kathy Cuneo RC AT&D

Email: training@greaterwestscouts.com.au



**Congratulations to these
Cub Scouts who have earned their
Grey Wolf Award**

Aiden Caine - 1st/2nd Merrylands

Alison McCredden - 1st Ermington

Bethany Botto - 1st Ermington

Thomas Pleffer - 1st Parramatta

1, 2, 3 WOOF

VENTURER REPORT

Congratulations to Danielle Barnett of 1st Castle Hill on earning the Queen's Scout Award.

Our biggest and best Waratah ever is being held this month. The Amazing Race will see nearly 200 Venturers compete across Sydney. We would also like to welcome the many Scouts that will be joining us for the weekend, as well as teams from five other Regions and a team from Guides Australia.

Applications to join the National Youth Council for a three year term (2014-2017) are now open. Visit www.nyc.scouts.com.au for more details. Applications close on 24 November 2013.



APPLICATIONS CLOSE 24TH NOVEMBER

You're invited to apply to join the Scouts Australia National Youth Council
Scouts' peak youth involvement body
Be part of National decision making
Attend 2 national conferences a year
Any Scouting member aged 13-23 can apply
Want to know more? Like us on facebook and keep an eye out for our brand new website. You can also email us: yoursay@nyc.scouts.com.au

www.facebook.com/ScoutsNYC | www.nyc.scouts.com.au



Applications for the 2014 Mawson Scholarship in Leadership are now open. Visit the Region website for a copy of the application form. Applications close on 27 March 2014.

The A1 form for our Region Venturer Social Camp at Bundilla in February is now available from the Region website.

Believe it or not, Dragon Skin is just around the corner as well! Team registrations open in January, and the Dragon Skin committee are publishing a series of newsletters to help Units prepare for the event. Copies are available on the Region website (under Venturer Resources).

Aaron Wardle RC Venturer Scouts

Email: venturers@greaterwestscouts.com.au

Mobile: 0421 076 497

CUMBERLAND GANG SHOW

Cumberland Gang Show in 2014 - Applications closing soon!

Why not encourage your youth members to extend their horizons in the Gang. This year we are offering opportunities for **Joeys right through to Rovers** and we welcome everyone to be involved. Gang Show is a training activity, which concentrates particularly on providing experiences in **theatrical arts**, whilst teaching self-confidence and teamwork.

Being a member of the cast is stacks of fun, it's exciting and you will be proud of what you achieve as you perform to 7,000 people over 8 days in the July school holidays. This fun extends to all performance and backstage areas, so no matter what YOUR talent, join the Gang!!!

**AUDITIONS are held on Saturday 7th December 2013
between 9am and 5pm.**

Applications close Friday 29th November 2013

To complete your audition application, just log on to our website: www.gangshow.asn.au and follow the 'Audition Now' link.

For more information or for late applications (which may be accepted) please contact Lorraine at personnel@gangshow.asn.au or call [0425 318 952](tel:0425318952)

We also have teams who would love to visit your group, run a self-expression activity and tell you all about the 2014 show.

For more information and to make a booking go to:

www.gangshow.asn.au

or contact

workshops@gangshow.asn.au



International Scouting

Do you have youth members in your Group that have considered applying to an international Scouting event?

The next World Scout Jamboree will be held in Japan in 2015. Applications close on 31st March 2014.



23rd World Scout Jamboree

18 July – 13 August 2015

Kirara-hama, Yamaguchi City, Japan

Scouts and Venturers aged 14 to 17

Contingent Fee \$6,750

www.wsj2015.scouts.com.au

**What if your youth members are not eligible to attend the World Scout Jamboree in 2015?
Or maybe they would prefer attending a smaller event in another country?**

There is a sample below of some other international Scouting events available in 2014 that would be a great alternative. Visit www.international.scouts.com.au for more details of these and other exciting activities.

There is an information session at Bundilla on Tuesday 26th November at 7:30PM for anyone who would like to learn more about the World Scout Jamboree and other great international events.

Don't forget that funding assistance may be available.

For more information, contact Peter Nickl Email: international@greaterwestscouts.com.au



5th Mongolian National Jamboree

2-8 July 2014

Scout Adventurer Camp, Batsumber, Tuv

Scouts and Venturers aged 12 to 17



Luxembourg National Centenary Camp

17-26 July 2014

Luxembourg

Scouts and Venturers aged 12 to 17

Together 2014
creating a better world
Luxembourg - Centenary Scout Camp



28th Icelandic National Jamboree

20-28 July 2014

Hamrar Scout Centre, Akureyri

Scouts and Venturers aged 12 to 17



9th German (VCP) National Jamboree

6-15 August 2014

Münsingen, Germany

Scouts and Venturers aged 12 to 17

RADIO, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

RECENT NIGHTS

An Arcs and Sparks night at Ermington in October, highlighted the problems of having only one presenter. The Joeys I could handle with the help of a couple of their Leaders, but the following Cubs only got a portion of the program, with half of them involved in games outside. Most unsatisfactory. Here we see them reacting to the high voltage generator, which was charging quite well for a humid night.



JOTA 2013 Bases

Penrith: Planned to go to Mt Keira, but was cancelled by the camp warden due to nearby bushfires. At the last minute Penrith Leaders diverted to their old stomping ground at Badgerys Creek road. This was a brave move as they had invited the district Cubs to join them, and were counting on Mt. Keira camp activities and bush walks as part of the activities.

Karl Humphreys was there with his antennae tower and **Radios**, and provided constant contacts from the Sydney area; a **GPS** navigation base; Morse code, semaphore and naval flags **Decode base**; hand held **transceivers**; a message decode by **Code wheel** base; and **Electrical emergency** and first aid situation.



The Cubs were kept busy with the **Ambulance radio dispatcher** communicator base; a **sign language** and **brail decode** base; and other bases provided by their Leaders on Saturday.



I provided an electrical connectivity base called **Connection Detective**, that used a buzzer to determine which paper clips were connected and which not. The Scouts had an extra level of difficulty by including diodes (which conduction in one direction but not in the reverse) in the connections.



The **Blue Mountain Amateur Radio Club** had operators on radios at their Glenbrook Hall, as well as providing operators to 1st Kings Langley, 2nd Castle Hill and Glossodia Scout JOTAs in the GWS region.

THE RADIO, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TEAM

John Leahy john.leahy@nmi.gov.au
Home: 4572-1549
Work: 8467-3592

Karl Humphreys ets0@bigpond.com.au
(M) 0408 205 649

2ND CASTLE HILL SCOUT GROUP JOTA/JOTI 2103

Ross Smith (Elmer) ASL 2nd Castle Hill Scouts

Wow!! What a fantastic event! Our troop had never run a JOTA/JOTI before and was a little nervous about how the activity would turn out, especially as the Hornsby Amateur Radio Club had to pull out at the last minute! A chance discussion with Makka from the Kings Langley Group meant that I had a chance to learn what it was all about a couple of hours before our Scouts turned up at the hall at 4pm on Saturday.

Talk about luck, the guys from Blue Mountains Amateur Radio Club were packing up at Kings Langley and kindly offered to set up a base at 2nd Castle Hill. Erik, Brad and Bob raced over to Castle Hill whilst I received some in-depth tutoring from Matt Vella (KL-VSL). Arriving back at our hall, I was confronted with wires and antennas being hoisted all over the place, gear being unpacked and 10 eager Scouts from our troop and 4 guests from our immediate neighbours, 1st Castle Hill, plus lots of eager parents. It was quite frantic for the first 30 minutes with parents and scouts all trying to set up computers, hubs, wireless dongles etc. Surprisingly though, out of the mayhem most of the Scouts were getting connected and chatting away merrily.



As things settled down the Radio club President, Erik, provided a short but entertaining explanation of HAM Radio,



then began to organise conversations for the Scouts. We managed to contact the following locations on the radio: America, Lord Howe Island, Harvey Bay (QLD), Albury/Wodonga, Tamworth and Kurnell until they packed up at 7:30pm. Meanwhile the JOTIers were having a ball and making connections all over the world: Italy, Greece, Argentina, Portugal, Philippines, Denmark, Sth Africa, Brazil, England, France and of course Australia were just a few of the countries that we chatted with. What was especially interesting was that we discovered one of our Scouts is fluent in Spanish and although a little hesitant to start with, once she began chatting in Spanish, we couldn't stop her!



The highlight of the evening was two Skype sessions with Scout troops from the Czech Republic and Tallin in Estonia, both of whom our other Leaders (Grug and Phoenix) had formed friendships with in the past. The JOTI chatting went on until midnight, interrupted only by a quick pizza dinner, a walk to Maccas for soft-serve and charring some marshmallows. The next morning the Scouts were back chatting away by 7:30am, nearly forgetting breakfast!! We collected about 20 JID's, had loads of fun and learnt a lot about different cultures and what happens in Scouting overseas.

We even learnt that Venturers are called "Raiders" in Guatemala and that Hedgehogs are the Scout mascot in Estonia.

We are definitely planning to repeat the event next year and include the Joeys and Cubs (and maybe our Rovers).

Thanks to everyone who helped make our first JOTA/JOTI a big success.



The people who were there were a few kids from 1st Castle Hill and some of the cubs. When we got there we all just played with the Frisbees while the radio guys were setting up their stuff for us. Once they were all set up they brought us inside and talked to us about radios and how they work. Then we got into the good stuff and started to talk to other scouts all around the world. We talked to them about sport, games and other scout stuff. Once the day nearly came to an end the cubs and 1st Castle Hill started to go home. We continued to talk to kids and also Skyped a few of Phoenix's friends that were on the other side of the world until about 9:30pm so we all decided to walk to Maccas and back. Once we got back we had a very impressive fire with marshmallows and then we went back inside to start to talk to more kids on the computers. At about 11:00 we had to set up our beds. Some people brought stretchers while some people slept on foam mats and chairs.

In the morning I was on a roll talking to people from Sweden and Greece, but I also talked to a boy from South Africa called Dannie. Me and Dannie talked to each other for about 20 minutes until I asked him if he had Skype and he said yes so I asked for his name and then we called him. We got to hear his troop yelling in the background and got to see a Nyan Cat sitting on the window sill. It was an amazing camp that had a lot of friendships to offer.

All in all it was a great camp and I am definitely going next year.

**Archie Berrie – PL
2nd Castle Hill Scout Troop**

On Saturday 19th of October I went on a JOTA/JOTI camp and learnt about different ways we can communicate with others through different devices. Some of the ways we did this was through the radio and through a chat room made especially for scouts.

While I was on the radio I talked to a little girl from Joeys called Rachael. She said she was 7 years old and lived up on the Gold Coast, Queensland. She asked me a few questions but my favourite moment was when she asked me how many badges I have. So I replied with an answer of about 15. She went on to say "That's nice, I have 2". This to me felt as if she wanted to get more badges as her tone of voice was quite serious and determined.

The second thing I did on the night was go onto a chat room and talk to people from all around the world if I wanted to. The chat room that I went on was English #05 and I also went onto European #2 and talked to people over there. My favourite chat though would have to be the chat I had with a little boy from England in London. He said that he wanted to talk to people from other parts of England and so I talked to him and told him about where I lived and how we were on the other side of the world. After that chat he went on to say that now knowing about Australia he wants to come down here and see for himself what it's like down here.

Overall I found the night to be extremely successful as it made not only me, but a lot of other scouts there, more interested to talk to people from other parts of the world. Even if it did take a little bit of persuasion to start talking and have a proper conversation instead of saying "Hi" and leaving the chat!

**Matthew Parry-Barwick
2nd Castle Hill**



REGION ACTIVITIES TEAM

Our hearts and prayers certainly go out to the many people, particularly in the Blue Mountains who have been affected by the recent Bushfires. As you are aware the GWS Region covers much of the lower Blue Mountains area and includes some of the worse affected areas.

For those who regularly read my monthly article, you know I always finish with the statement, **“Have Adventurous Fun and be Activity Safe”** Perhaps a bit tongue in cheek, but it does have a serious undertone. With the recent bushfires; periods of Total Fire Bans; and the general very hot weather; many Leaders have had to cancel hikes and overnight camps etc., and then have had to front disappointed youth, who were so looking forward to that “bush camp” or the hike to “that favourite waterhole”.

Can I say to the Leaders who have been in this situation **“WELL DONE!”** Along with showing top priority to the safety and wellbeing of all participants, it also shows a very high level of experience and integrity. Let’s face it - we would all much rather face twenty disappointed Cubs or Scouts, than face the scrutiny of the media, or in worst cases, the courts, when things go a bit pear shaped.

As a general rule, any activity in a bush environment should be rescheduled to another time if a **Total Fire Ban** has been called - particularly Scouts doing Green Cord Hikes. As part of your normal preparation, monitor the weather very carefully a week or so before your activity, particularly when activities go over a couple of days. Conditions may be good the first day, but can quickly change. I find the **WillyWeather** site an excellent resource for this, giving you a fairly detailed five day forecast in a particular area.

It will protect you from rain...but a bush fire...?



As everyone would certainly be aware of by now, we have lost a legend from not just the Activities Team, but from Scouting itself. Richard Anthony Jamieson passed away on Thursday 24 October with his family by his side. While I know people have written tributes elsewhere, it would be remiss of myself not to acknowledge what Rick was to Scouting, and in particular his passion for abseiling, caving and canyoning. My very first abseil was with Rick by my side, carefully nurturing me on. Indeed, just about every person who has done any abseiling within the Region would have been under the guidance of Rick Jamieson. Serving on the Activities Team from 1996 until his passing, Rick was a mentor, an inspiration and a friend to so many of us. There is just one simple word that comes to mind when we all think of Rick.....**MIGHTY!**

Rick Jamieson
1941 - 2013

I spent a very enjoyable weekend with the Rock Team participating in a Rescue and Recovery Course for abseiling. Big thank you to Mick Fry for sharing his expertise in running the course for the team, as we learnt some of the various skills required, when things don’t quite go to plan. This course was all part of the required accreditation to SIS10. The skills we learnt are not just confined to abseiling, but also used in rescue and recovery situations in both caving and canyoning. As a tribute to Rick Jamieson, our new Rock Activities Leader, Stuart Cowan lead the team in a minutes silence at the start of the course.

Warren and Ryan perfecting their rescue skills while 'on rope'.

Photo Mark Fell



Don't forget our **Water Fun Day at Lake Chipping Norton** on Sunday 1st December 2013. This is a great day to bring the whole family along. There will be canoes, kayaks, sailing craft, and we may even have a power boat and a jet ski or two.

What about using the day as your Group's end of year Christmas Party! More details and an A1 are on the Region Website.

Hopefully the weather settles down and we can get out and do stuff!

Mark Fell (DINGO) RC Activities

Email: activities@greaterwestcouts.com.au



HARRY ANDERSON

28/3/1940 - 3/11/2013

Supporter

1st North Mt Druitt Scout Group

Harry's funeral will be held at
11:00am on Tuesday, November 12

at
Pinegrove Memorial Park

Kington Street

Minchinbury

Full and correct uniform please

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Harry's family and many friends, he will be sadly missed.

POLICY AND RULES 2013

The 'rules' for Scouting have been updated, and the new 2013 edition of **Policy and Rules** is now available from your Scouting retailer.

All Leaders should have access to a copy and familiarise themselves with the new policies regarding the code of conduct and management of adults.

Policy and Rules 2013 is available from your local Scouting retailer at the RRP of \$14.20.

Look out for the e-book edition available from November 2013. There is also an online version available on the [Scouts Australia website](http://www.scouts.org.au).

Order your copy today

THE SCOUT SHOP

85 Wentworth Street
Port Kembla NSW 2505

Phone: 4274 1193 Fax: 4274 6334

OPENING HOURS

Mon, Tue, Wed and Fri 9am - 4.30pm
Thursday: 10am - 4.30pm
Saturday: 9am - 12pm

THE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is edited and published for the general information of members in the Greater Western Sydney Region. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the GWSR or Scouts Australia.

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